

RHODE ISLAND 9-1-1 SYSTEM STARTS GIS DATA PROJECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Raymond LaBelle, Executive Director of the Rhode Island E 9-1-1 Uniform Emergency Telephone System Division, today announced the start of a GIS data development project in the City of Providence commencing on Monday, April 26, 2004.

This project is being managed for the 9-1-1 System by microDATA GIS, Inc., a leader in 9-1-1 GIS data development work and in specialized public safety software.

The data to be developed under the project will provide additional and more accurate information to 9-1-1 call-takers, particularly relating to the location of callers. The information will be displayed on a digital map at the call-taker's console, enabling the call-taker to help emergency response agencies find locations of callers more quickly, especially of wireless carriers.

Executive Director LaBelle says the project will help improve the 9-1-1 system to all residents of the city, whether they use a traditional wireline telephone or a wireless telephone to call for emergency help. "It will correct any address discrepancies and will help us locate emergency callers using a wireless telephone within local wireless service areas," he said.

In collecting the necessary data, microDATA employees will drive white Chevrolet Tracker vehicles, which identify microDATA and its 9-1-1 function. (A photograph of a vehicle to be used in the project accompanies this release.) They will drive every street and road in the City of Providence, stopping at each structure to obtain or verify an address, capture the latitude and longitude of each structure, and take a digital photograph of it. Where structures are not easily seen from the street, the microDATA data collector will travel up driveways to capture this information.

Residents of the City of Providence are asked to cooperate with the microDATA employees collecting this data. Town officials have been briefed on this project, and fully support it as an important public safety measure. Eventually, GIS data will be collected in all of the cities and towns in Rhode Island, as funding becomes available within the state budget.

If residents of the City of Providence have any questions, they may direct them to microDATA at 800-722-6663, or to Norma Sousa, 9-1-1 Database Manager of the Rhode Island E 9-1-1 Uniform Emergency Telephone System, at 354-0921.